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Young Historians Win Awards



(NOTE TO EDITORS: Award winners from your county are listed at the end of the release.)

June 7, 2020 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — As students and teachers across the state adapted to a “new normal” and had to adjust to a variety of both work and learning changes, the N.C. Museum of History continued to recognize its Tar Heel Junior Historian Association (THJHA) award winners. These awards recognize junior historians for outstanding projects submitted in THJHA contests, which encourage students to research the historical significance of people, places, and events in their own communities.

All winning projects are showcased in the exhibit **History in Every Direction: Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Discovery Gallery**, now open to museum visitors.

“We were thrilled to have so many clubs participate in our contests and convention this school year,” said Jessica Pratt, THJHA program coordinator. “We are very proud of the students and their club leaders as they adapted their meetings and projects so they could continue their work exploring state and local history.”

Authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1953, the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association is sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of History, part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The association is made up of a network of FREE clubs across the state, with members in grades 4–12. Each club must have at least one adult adviser.

Clubs may be sponsored by public, private, or home schools, or by other organizations such as museums and historical societies, 4-H groups, Boy Scouts, or Girl Scouts. Clubs can be any size, from one student and one adviser to hundreds of students and several advisers. Clubs must renew their membership each school year, using an online application at tarheeljuniorhistorians.org.

Student, Chapter and Adviser THJHA Award Winners

Awards are given for outstanding THJHA chapters and advisers, as well as student projects. Categories of competition include media projects, art projects, literary projects and essays, an artifact search, photography projects, and a state history quiz.

Projects encourage students to understand and appreciate our state's heritage. Groups as well as individuals received awards.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The **2021 Chapter of the Year Award** goes to **North Davie Junior Historians** from **North Davie Middle School** in Mocksville. This club is incredibly organized, with a club constitution, club officers, and minutes from each meeting! The students worked on a variety of projects over the year, including learning citations, participating in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, supporting their community through a Christmas Angels initiative, and researching for THJHA Contests.

ADVISER OF THE YEAR

The **Adviser of the Year** for 2021 is **Carmen Cox** of **History Hounds of Central Carolina** from **North Carolina Homeschool Adventures**. Over the years, Carmen has been an adviser at the helm of several different variations of THJH clubs. Throughout it all, her leadership and guidance has been a boon to her club members, helping them to become successful junior historians (and contest winners!).

Craven County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winner from Peluso Christian Academy, New Bern

Elizabeth Peluso of the **Peluso Junior Historians** won second place in the intermediate division for her Fall 2021 prompt submission for the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest; **Matthew Peluso** won first place in the secondary division for his *THJH* Magazine Article submission.

Cumberland County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from HOME, Cumberland County

The **Adviser of the Year for 2021** is **Carment Cox** of the **History Hounds of Central Carolina**, from the **North Carolina Homeschool Adventures**.

Members of the **History Hounds of Central Carolina** from **North Carolina Homeschool Adventures** won individual awards.

Claire Ledford placed in the Artifact Search Contest and won first place in the Christopher Crittenden Quiz; she also placed first in the secondary division of the individual Creative Writing Contest and won first place in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest for her Spring 2022 Prompt entry at the secondary level.

Madelyn Watkins was also a first-place winner in the elementary division of the Creative Writing Contest for her submission *The Flat Rock School Fire Diary*.

Charles Watkins won second place in the *Institutional/Public* category for his entry in the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest; **Jacob Hill** was named the first-place winner in the *Monuments/Markers* category of the same contest.

Winner from St. Patrick Catholic School, Fayetteville

Reagan Grambusch of the **St. Patrick Catholic School Junior Historians** placed third in the Exhibit/Visual Art contest at the intermediate level.

Davie County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from North Davie Middle School, Mocksville

Cayden Kennedy of the **North Davie Junior Historians** won second place in the intermediate division for his individual Creative Writing entry *Cody and Caleb Martin*, and the entry also won the special Sports History Award, sponsored by the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

Durham County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winner from Oakbrook Academy, Durham

Anuragini Barman won first place in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz in the elementary division and first place in the Creative Writing Contest, intermediate division, for *Penelope Barker and the Edenton Tea Party*. The entry also won the special Women's History Award, sponsored by the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement.

Mecklenburg County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winner from HOME, Charlotte

Kate Mills, member of the **South Charlotte History Club**, won second place in the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest for the individual entry in *Barns/Outbuildings*.

Moore County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School, Carthage

Mary Grace Hilliard of the **Roots Club of SFL** at **Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School** was a winner in the Artifact Search Contest.

In addition, two students from the **Roots Club of SFL** claimed wins in the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest: **Ryan Oakley** won first place for his entry in the *Architectural Details* category; and **Kimber Pickler** won first place for her entry in the *Barns/Outbuildings* category.

In the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest, elementary division, **Ryan Oakley** won first place, and **Anna Marie Dalton** took home second place.

Nash County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winner from Rocky Mount Academy, Rocky Mount

John Thomas Wingfield, a member of the **RMA Jr. Historians**, won second place in the individual N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest for his *Commercial/Industrial Buildings* entry. In the *Houses* division of the same contest, **Lowell Brantley** placed first.

Orange County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from St. Thomas More Catholic School, Chapel Hill

Members of the **St. Thomas More Junior Historians** from **St. Thomas More Catholic School** won individual awards.

Kathleen Cook took home a win in the Artifact Search Contest.

Sarah Martin Duncan won second place in the individual Creative Writing Contest in the elementary division for her piece *The Move of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse*.

Natalie Stasko won first place for her *Institutional/Public Buildings* entry in the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest.

Surry County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, Mount Airy

The **Jesse Franklin Pioneers** club at the **Mount Airy Museum of Regional History** in Mount Airy brought home three individual awards for its members.

Individually, **Paytin Key** won first place in the Exhibit/Visual Art contest at the elementary level; **Alex Pell** was named first-place winner in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest at the intermediate level; and **Andrew Edwards** placed first for his Video Documentary entry *The Burnside Expedition*.

Wake County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winners from Underwood GT Magnet Elementary, Raleigh

The **MUG T MES Historians** from **Underwood GT Magnet Elementary** won first place in Creative Writing in the elementary division, group category, for *Hayes Barton People and Places*. The team also placed second in the Exhibit/Visual Art group contest at the elementary division for their entry *The Story of the NC State Capitol*.

Two members of the **MUG T MES Historians** also won individual awards. **Johanna Hazen** placed second in the Christopher Crittenden Quiz; and **Lisa Howard** placed first in the Christopher Crittenden Quiz.

Winners from Garner Area Homeschoolers

The **Seed History Seekers** from the **Garner Area Homeschoolers** in Raleigh won in the History in Action Contest for their project *Lights Out: Uncovering North Carolina History Mysteries*.

Asher Richardson, a member of the **Seed History Seekers**, won second place in the *Houses* category of the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest.

Winners from The Fletcher Academy, Raleigh

Several **TFA NC Explorers** won individual awards. **Dale Watson** received a win for his Artifact Search entry; **Logan Aldridge** placed first in the *Commercial/Industrial Buildings* category of the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest; **Dylan Goodall** received second place for her entry in the *Monuments/Markers* category of the N.C. Historic Architecture Photography Contest.

Winners from Full Armor Classical Academy, Garner

The **Wolfpack Howling Historians** club from **Full Armor Classical Academy** took home first place for their intermediate level Creative Writing entry, *From the Flu to You*.

Luke Crawford placed second in the Spring 2021 Prompt for his *THJH* Magazine Article Contest entry; he won in the Artifact Search, as well.

Wilson County 2021 THJHA Winners

Winner from Greenfield School, Wilson

Two members from the **Greenfield Tar Heel Junior Historians** club won individual awards. **Grace Gibson** won second place in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest in the intermediate division. **Natalie Copeland** placed first in the intermediate level of the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the N.C. Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Last year, more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

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